

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
February 28, 2006
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS OVERNIGHT MAIL

Jeffrey S. Jordan, Esq.
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

2006 MAR -1 P 1:07

**RE: FEC Complaint/Aronsohn Congressional Exploratory Campaign
MUR No.: 5704**

Dear Mr. Jordan:

Please accept this correspondence as my response to the complaint filed against my campaign with the Federal Election Commission ("FEC" or "Commission") by Nancy A. Reese on or about February 6, 2006. I respectfully request that this complaint be dismissed and that the Commission take no further action with respect to my campaign.

The complaint generally alleges that I violated FEC regulations while I was "testing the waters" for my potential candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Congress from New Jersey's 5th District. However, prior to the filing of the complaint, I officially entered the race by filing the appropriate documents with the FEC on or about January 23, 2006. During the period that I was in the exploratory phase of the campaign, I took great care to abide by both the spirit and letter of the FEC's guidelines. As such, I categorically deny any violation of FEC regulations, as the following facts will bear out.

Additionally, I urge the FEC to consider, in reviewing Ms. Reese's complaint, that a nearly identical FEC complaint, MUR 5693, was filed against me by a former candidate for the Democratic nomination from the 5th District, Dorothea Anne Wolfe, in early December 2005. See Exhibits A and B, attached hereto, copies of Ms. Wolfe's complaint and my response. Ms. Reese fails to raise a single factual issue that was not previously raised in Ms. Wolfe's complaint. Ms. Wolfe's complaint received significant attention in the local press, and it is highly unlikely that an individual politically sophisticated enough to file a complaint with the FEC was unaware of the prior complaint. Thus, the FEC should recognize that this complaint most likely is an attempt to drag out a final resolution of this matter for my opponent's political advantage. See Exhibit C, attached hereto, fundraising letter from my Republican adversary claiming that I committed "a probable violation of Federal election law." Accordingly, if Ms. Reese's complaint is not summarily dismissed, I hereby request that this matter be immediately consolidated with MUR 5693, since that matter presumably is already undergoing the review process in the Office of General Counsel and hopefully that review is nearing a conclusion.

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With the foregoing in mind, the following is my substantive response to MUR 5704.

Background

By way of background, the 5th Congressional District includes parts of Sussex, Warren, Passaic, and Bergen Counties in the northern part of New Jersey. Most, if not all of the district is considered to be within the New York City media market, making it one of the most expensive places to run for public office in the United States.

The 5th District is currently represented by two-term Republican incumbent Scott Garrett, and previously had been represented by a twelve-term Republican Congresswoman Marge Roukema. Congressman Garrett was handily re-elected (over Ms. Wolfe) in 2004, garnering 57.4% of the vote. According to the FEC's website, Congressman Garrett raised over \$1,260,000 in the 2003-2004 election cycle, while Ms. Wolfe raised approximately \$490,000 in defeat. The FEC's website indicates that as of September 30, 2005, Congressman Garrett had over \$238,000 cash on hand well over a year before the 2006 election.

Based on these facts, it was apparent to me that if I were to successfully run for Congress from the 5th Congressional District, I would need to ensure that I had a significant base of support at the outset in order to have a chance of defeating an entrenched incumbent in a Republican-leaning district. Accordingly, I decided to undertake an exploratory campaign only until it was clear that I could raise the necessary resources and therefore be a viable candidate.

At the outset and throughout the entire course of the exploratory portion of my candidacy, I took numerous precautions to ensure my compliance with Commission regulations:

- When I decided to undertake an exploratory campaign, on April 11, 2005, I reviewed various FEC materials and spoke with numerous individuals familiar with Federal campaign laws and Commission regulations with respect to "testing the waters." My efforts to comply with the regulations included meeting face-to-face with a FEC information officer at the FEC's Washington D.C. offices. Based on these efforts, I made a good-faith determination as to the activities that I could undertake before officially becoming a declared candidate for Federal office.
- In all of my communications, I prominently underscored the exploratory nature of my campaign.
- Although candidates who are "testing the waters" are not required to file with the FEC, I have scrupulously maintained records of contributions and expenditures in accordance with the Commission's requirements.

Nonetheless, Ms. Reese claims that I have gone beyond the permissible boundaries for an exploratory candidate in that I operated an Internet site, www.paularonsohn.com,¹ and raised more money than reasonably necessary to "test the waters." An analysis of these allegations demonstrates that further Commission action would be unjustified.

A. Allegation of Excess Fundraising

Ms. Reese first alleges that because I have admittedly raised more than \$100,000 from a number of different contributors while exploring my candidacy, I have "raised more than what is reasonably needed to test the waters." This allegation is based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the "testing the waters" exception. I am aware of no specific dollar figure above which a candidate is no longer "testing the waters." In fact, I understand that the Commission's general counsel has written, "the Commission has recognized...that raising even \$200,000 in funds while testing the waters is not unusual, given the tremendous resources needed to fund a campaign." MUR 5251 (Joe Rodgers). It is apparent that I will likely need at least \$1,000,000 in order to compete on an even financial playing field with Congressman Garrett (as his own campaign literature states), and thus, my fundraising was well within permissible "testing the waters" limits.

Furthermore, because I was so explicit in stating I was testing the waters in both my public and private activities, some potential supporters withheld their political and financial support due to the uncertainty of my intentions. The Commission should also be aware that the funds raised during my exploratory campaign were spent only on items directly relevant to "testing the waters," specifically, a part-time fundraising consultant, a website, food and beverage for the fundraising events, and stationary.

B. Allegation of Campaigning

Ms. Reese next alleges that because my efforts included a website containing information about my exploratory campaign, I was impermissibly campaigning for Federal office. Ms. Reese has attached various pages from my website as exhibits to her complaint. Notably, as Ms. Reese herself attests, on every single page my efforts are prominently described as exploratory in nature and I am regularly described in such terms as a "prospective candidate." Therefore, Ms. Reese's position must be that a potential candidate "testing the waters" can never maintain a website. This position is contrary to what I was explicitly told by an FEC information officer, as well as contrary to the FEC's own regulations. I note that 11 C.F.R. §100.26 states (with emphasis added) that:

public communication means a communication by means of any broadcast, cable or satellite communication, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mass mailing or telephone bank to the general public, or any other form of *general public political advertising*. The

¹ Since I have formally declared my candidacy for Congress, my website has been updated to reflect this fact.

term public communication shall not include communications over the Internet.

Based on this guidance, it is my understanding that a potential candidate "testing the waters" may in fact maintain a website, which will not be considered improper "general public political advertising," so long as he or she does not make explicit statements of candidacy. This is the only sensible interpretation of the regulations, since it is well recognized that a website has become a vital fundraising tool for anyone considering a campaign for political office. Obviously, I never claimed I was a declared candidate for Congress anywhere on my website, nor could one mistakenly reach that conclusion based on the clear language I specifically included in order to underscore the exploratory nature of my campaign.

C. October 27, 2005 Fundraising Letter

Ms. Reese also includes a copy of an October 27, 2005 fundraising letter from my exploratory campaign that she claims constitutes impermissible campaigning. This letter was not sent to the general public, but rather, was sent mainly to individuals in my own personal Rolodex plus a limited number of additional names directly provided to me by personal friends as potential supporters of my campaign. Once again, this letter, as well, emphasized the exploratory nature of my efforts and therefore provides no support for her allegations.

D. Anonymous Newspaper Article

Although she does not specifically mention it in her complaint, Ms. Reese includes a single media account with her exhibits, an anonymous political gossip column in the Star-Ledger newspaper, where I was cited as a "Democratic challenger." Obviously, I have no control over how any reporter describes me in a story, however, I note that my brief comments in the article in question, which were made as a private citizen speaking on a matter of public importance, are directed towards Congressman Garrett's policy positions, not my potential candidacy. I categorically deny telling any reporter from the Star-Ledger, or any other newspaper, that I was an active candidate for Federal office, nor have I ever authorized anyone else to identify me as such. As a December 14, 2005 article published in the Bergen Record indicates, when speaking with the media I emphasized as a matter of course that I had not made a final decision to run for Congress. See Exhibit D, attached hereto, Bergen Record article dated December 14, 2005.

Conclusion

In sum, I categorically deny Ms. Reese's allegations that I have gone beyond the activities permitted under the Federal Election Commission's guidelines for "testing the waters." To the contrary, I have carefully and judiciously followed both the letter and the spirit of the law. Accordingly, the complaint should be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Aronsohn

Paul Aronsohn
Paul Aronsohn For Congress

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Exhibit A

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RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION #
SECRETARIAL

5693

Dorothea Anne Wolfe

Mahwah, New Jersey 07430

NOV DEC -6 P 4 25

SENSITIVE

**Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463**

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL
NOV 21 A 10 24

Dear Office of the General Counsel:

As a declared candidate for United States Congress 5th District in New Jersey in 2004 and again in 2005, I have carefully adhered to the FEC regulations for "Testing the Waters vs. Campaigning" and "Starting the Campaign."

Another individual, Paul Aronson, entered the 2006 race for the New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District on April 11, 2005 by announcing a "Congressional Exploratory Campaign" (See attached Press Release printed from the Aronson website www.paularonson.com dated April 11, 2005).

On July 11, 2005, Mr. Aronson issued a Press Release entitled, "Campaign Update" (See attached Press Release printed from the same website www.paularonson.com dated July 11, 2005) wherein he describes members of an Advisory Committee and fundraising activities: "In addition to 75 individual contributions, we have already held two fundraising events."

On September 1, 2005, Mr. Aronson issued a Press Release entitled, "Campaign Update" (see attached Press Release printed from same above described website and dated September 1, 2005) wherein he describes his fundraising as "picking up steam" with the number of individual contributions increased to 140.

On Sunday September 11, 2005 he was quoted in the Star Ledger, the largest newspaper in New Jersey, as "a Democratic challenger" in an article attacking the incumbent Member of Congress.

Mr. Aronson has spoken before numerous Democratic Party gatherings as a person seeking the Democratic Nomination. At a gathering at a private home where we were both in attendance, both Mr. Aronson and I were introduced as "the two fine candidates for the

Democratic Party to Challenge the Incumbent." When asked why he has not declared his candidacy, Mr. Aronsohn's response is always that he is running in the 5th Congressional District and that it is merely a 'technicality' that he has not formally filed with the FEC.

On October 27, 2005, Mr. Aronsohn sent out a mass mailing (see attached copy of letter) in which he states "Recently I have launched a Congressional Exploratory Campaign, and am writing to ask for your support." He goes on to say "Every dollar we receive in the next few weeks can help us prepare for the fight against Scott Garrett". The mailing includes a return envelope for donations and is in color on printed stationery.

On November 1, 2005 Mr. Aronsohn issued a Press Release stating "We have crossed a major threshold....the campaign has already received about 225 contributions and has raised about \$100,000"

Mr. Aronsohn has clearly "raised or spent over \$5,000" and is using a website as "general public political advertising". He has raised \$100,000 from over 225 contributors, which is to say, "raised more than what is reasonably needed to test the waters." He has "conducted activities over a protracted period of time." He also states in his letter dated October 27, 2005, that he recently launched a Congressional Exploratory Campaign when he, in fact, launched the campaign more than six months prior to the date of the mass mailing fundraising letter.

To date, Mr. Aronsohn has not filed either FEC Forms 1 or 2.

I am submitting this formal complaint concerning possible violations to FEC regulations pertaining to filing requirements of a Candidate seeking election to a seat in the United States House of Representatives.

In summary, the facts indicate that Mr. Aronsohn has gone beyond activities directed to an evaluation of the feasibility of his candidacy; instead, he is engaging in partisan political activities reflecting a personal decision to seek nomination for election to federal office.

Exhibit B

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VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS OVERNIGHT MAIL

**Mr. Jeff S. Jordan
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC, 20463**

**RE: Arensahn Congressional Exploratory Committee
MUR No.: 5693**

Dear Mr. Jordan,

Please accept this correspondence as my response to the complaint filed with the Federal Election Commission ("FEC" or "Commission") by Dorothea Anne Wolfe on or about December 6, 2005. I respectfully request that the complaint be dismissed as unworthy of the Commission's resources, and that the Commission take no further action with respect to my campaign.

Simply stated, since first deciding to undertake my exploratory campaign, I have taken great care to abide by both the letter and the spirit of the FEC's guidelines. As such, I categorically deny Ms. Wolfe's allegation. A review of the facts below will bear this out.

Notably, at the time her complaint was filed, Ms. Wolfe was actively campaigning for the Democratic nomination from the 5th District, and thus had a strong political motivation to damage my potential candidacy. (See Exhibit A & B, Ms. Wolfe's press release announcing the FEC complaint against me and a copy of her campaign's website homepage on which the FEC complaint was prominently displayed.) Subsequently, Ms. Wolfe dropped out of the race on January 21, 2006, citing "concerns about financial and political viability."

Notably, on January 23, 2006, I officially entered the race by mailing my Statement of Candidacy to the Commission.

Background

By way of background, the 5th Congressional District includes parts of Sussex, Warren, Passaic, and Bergen Counties in the northern part of New Jersey. Most, if not all, of the 5th District is considered to be within the New York City media market, making it one of the most expensive places to run for public office in the United States.

The 5th District is currently represented by two-term Republican incumbent Scott Garrett, and previously had been represented by a twelve-term Republican Representative, Marge Roukema.

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Congressman Garrett was re-elected (over Ms. Wolfe) in 2004, garnering 57.4% of the vote. According to the FEC's website, Congressman Garrett raised over \$1,260,000 in the 2003-2004 election cycle, while Ms. Wolfe raised approximately \$490,000 in defeat. The FEC's website indicates that as of September 30, 2005, Congressman Garrett had over \$238,000 cash on hand well over a year before this year's election.

Based on these facts, it was apparent to me that I would need to ensure a significant financial base of support at the outset in order to have a chance of defeating an entrenched incumbent in a Republican-leaning district. Accordingly, I decided to undertake an exploratory campaign only until it was clear that I could raise the necessary resources and therefore be a viable candidate.

At the outset and throughout the entire course of my exploratory campaign, I took several precautions to ensure my compliance with the Commission's guidelines:

- When I decided to undertake my exploratory campaign, on April 11, 2005, I reviewed various FEC materials and spoke with numerous individuals familiar with Federal campaign laws and Commission guidelines with respect to "testing the waters." My efforts to comply with the regulations also included meeting face-to-face with a FEC information officer at the Commission's Washington D.C. offices. Based on these efforts, I made a good-faith determination as to the activities that I could undertake before officially becoming a candidate for Federal office.**
- In all of my communications, I underscored the exploratory nature of my campaign.**
- Although candidates who are "testing the waters" are not required to file with the FEC, I have scrupulously maintained records of contributions and expenditures in accordance with the Commission's requirements.**

Nonetheless, in her complaint, Ms. Wolfe presents several examples where she alleges that I have gone beyond the permissible boundaries for an exploratory campaign. A review of each of these allegations, however, demonstrates that Commission action is clearly not justified in this matter. Each allegation is discussed detail below.

A. Allegation of Excess Fundraising

Ms. Wolfe alleges that, because I have admittedly raised more than \$100,000 from a number of contributors while exploring my candidacy, I have "raised more than what is reasonably needed to test the waters." This allegation is based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the "testing the waters" exception. I am aware of no specific dollar figure above which a candidate is no longer "testing the waters." In fact, I understand that the Commission's general counsel has written, "the Commission has recognized...that raising even \$200,000 in funds while testing the waters is not unusual, given the

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tremendous resources needed to fund a campaign." MUR 5251 (Joe Rodgers). It is apparent that I will likely need at least \$1,000,000 in order to compete on an even financial playing field with Congressman Garrett, and thus, my fundraising was well within permissible "testing the waters" limits. The number of individual contributors, of course, is irrelevant to this analysis.

Furthermore, the Commission should be aware that because I was so explicit in stating I was testing the waters in both my public and private activities, some potential supporters withheld their political and financial support due to the uncertainty of my intentions. The Commission should also be aware that the funds raised during my exploratory campaign were spent only on items directly relevant to "testing the waters," specifically a part-time fundraising consultant, a website, food and beverage for the fundraising events, and stationary.

B. Allegation of "General Public Political Advertising"

Ms. Wolfe alleges that because my efforts included an Internet website containing information about my exploratory campaign, I was engaging in "general public political advertising." Ms. Wolfe has attached various pages from my website (which has since been changed, due to my formal declaration of candidacy) as exhibits to her complaint. Notably, on every single page, my efforts are prominently described as "exploratory" in nature, and I am continually described in such terms as a "prospective candidate." Therefore, Ms. Wolfe's position must be that a potential candidate "testing the waters" can never maintain a website. This position is contrary to what I was explicitly told by an FEC information officer, as well as contrary to the FEC's own regulations. I note that 11 C.F.R. §100.26 states (with emphasis added) that:

Public communication means a communication by means of any broadcast, cable or satellite communication, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mass mailing or telephone bank to the general public, or any other form of *general public political advertising*. The term public communication shall not include communications over the Internet.

Based on this guidance, it is my understanding that a potential candidate "testing the waters" may in fact maintain a website, which is not to be considered "general public political advertising," so long as he or she does not make explicit statements of candidacy. Ms. Wolfe cites only one additional instance of alleged public communication, an October 27, 2005 fundraising letter. This letter was not sent to the general public, but rather, was sent mainly to individuals in my own personal Rolodex plus a limited number of additional names directly provided to me by personal friends as potential supporters of my campaign. Once again, this letter, as well, emphasized the exploratory nature of my efforts. I have not undertaken, nor has Ms. Wolfe alleged, any other public communication as I understand the meaning of the term.

C. Public Appearances

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Ms. Wolfe vaguely alleges, in effect, that I have made statements that I was a declared candidate for the 5th District Congressional seat prior to my declaration of candidacy. This allegation is fundamentally inaccurate. In fact, I have made a conscious and concerted effort to underscore the exploratory nature of my effort in all of my public communications and appearances. On December 13th, 2005, for example, I held a fundraiser that was attended by a reporter from the Bergen Record. The resulting story specifically notes, "Aronsohn has not decided whether to run next year for the 5th Congressional District seat against two-term incumbent Rep. Scott Garrett, R-Wantage. But Aronsohn indicated that he would make a final decision 'within a few weeks.'" (See Exhibit C, Bergen Record article dated December 14, 2005). I scrupulously maintained a policy of emphasizing that I was only "testing the waters," as this article reflects.

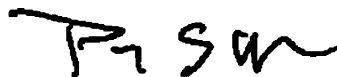
D. Media Reports

Ms. Wolfe mentions that in a single media account, an anonymous political gossip column in the Star-Ledger newspaper, I was cited as a "Democratic challenger." Obviously, I have no control over how any reporter describes me in a story, however, I note that my brief comments in the article in question are directed towards Congressman Garrett's policy positions, not my potential candidacy. I categorically deny telling any reporter from that newspaper that was an active candidate for Federal office, nor did I authorize anyone to identify me as an active candidate.

Conclusion

In sum, I categorically deny Ms. Wolfe's allegations that I have gone beyond the activities permitted under the Federal Election Commission's guidelines for "testing the waters." To the contrary, I have carefully and judiciously followed both the letter and the spirit of the law. Accordingly, the complaint should be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Aronsohn

Garrett for Congress

Campaign Headquarters

NJ 5th Congressional District

40 Park Place Newton, NJ 07860
(973) 300-0470 Fax: (973) 300-9478
Info@GarrettForCongress.com

January 27, 2006

Mr. Douglas Dittrick
364 Manchester Rd
Ridgewood, NJ 07450-1213

Dear Douglas,

This November, I will be on the ballot to return to Congress for a third term. You've been a great source of advice, counsel, and support in the past. And, I need your help again now.

There is little doubt that this will be a challenging year. The Jack Abramoff scandal is feeding an anti-politician mood across the nation. The pallor of a few bad men and their egregious disregard for ethics and the law threatens to cast a bad light on all of us in Congress.

The House Republican leadership is so distracted right now that a strong and comprehensive agenda for the year has been pushed to the back burner. And, the Democrats are working tirelessly to negatively define our party in the absence of a positive Republican agenda.

Add to this mix that demographics are changing the voting patterns of North Jersey, and you have a powerful and dangerous election year environment. No incumbent can take his district for granted – even the most traditionally Republican of districts, like New Jersey's Fifth District.

And, this year, I am facing a serious challenger – a tough, well-funded, politically-savvy candidate who has demonstrated a real ability to raise the kind of money that will enable him to distort the truth and smear my record. If news reports are to be believed, he starts off this campaign with a sizable bank account and a cadre of well-connected cronies.

This challenger has even quit his job to campaign full-time to put New Jersey's Fifth District in the Democrats' hands. And, his friends from his years with the McGreevey and Clinton administrations plan to keep him bankrolled to do just that.

True enough, he starts off with a probable violation of Federal election law. He is currently being investigated by the Federal Elections Commission, or FEC. But, the Democrats are clearing the way for his run. His only opposition dropped out of the race implying that the DNC forced her out.

Paid for by Garrett for Congress, Steven J. Yeals, Treasurer

Exhibit C

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I know I have a message that resonates with Fifth District voters – lower taxes, more responsive government, and principled leadership. Everywhere I go across this district, I am met with a positive response to this message. It is a message that will prevail against their negative attacks and agenda of nothing.

But, I need your help if that message is ever to be heard above the din of the Democrat campaign machine. Won't you please send in your most generous donation today?

In the coming weeks, I will have to hire campaign staff, purchase signs and bumper stickers and literature, develop and fund communications plans, and organize my campaign kick-off and other events. All of these things are critical to the day-to-day operations of a campaign and all of these things take money. In fact, I need to raise \$1 million dollars to run and win this race.

That's why I'm inviting you today to become a charter member of the Garrett for Congress 2006 Million Dollar Club.

To join the Million Dollar Club, all you have to do is help me raise \$1,000 between now and March 31st. If you're able, you can just write a \$1,000 check to Garrett for Congress. Or, you can ask ten friends, each of whom writes a \$100 check to Garrett for Congress, to donate. Or, you can have a house party with 20 friends at \$50 a piece.

Anything permissible under the Federal election laws – and that means no checks from corporations, minors, labor unions, or foreign nationals – is OK. If you have any questions, please feel free to call my Finance Director Linna Selby at 973-300-0470.

I truly appreciate your assistance and your support. Your commitment to our principles and our party are an inspiration to me. *Please let me here from you today!*

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Scott Garrett

Exhibit D

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Print | Close

Former McGreevey aide touted for House

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

By KAREN KELLER
HERALD NEWS

FRANKLIN LAKES - New Jersey Democrats gathered at a fund-raiser Tuesday night designed to propel Paul Aronson, the former communications director for former Gov. James E. McGreevey, to Congress.

The star guest of the evening was New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who has been mentioned as a possible Democratic presidential candidate in 2008.

Richardson portrayed Aronson as a Democrat who has been successful in Republican territory.

"He's the only Democrat at Pfizer where there are 9,000 Republicans," Richardson said with a laugh.

Aronson has not decided whether to run next year for the 5th Congressional District seat against two-term incumbent Rep. Scott Garrett, R-Wantage. But Aronson indicated that he would make a final decision "within a few weeks."

The event attracted about 50 local elected officials, community activists and campaign supporters.

Aronson has already amassed \$100,000 in campaign funds, according to spokesman Adam Green.

Richardson, whose mother was Mexican and father was American, is a Democratic governor in the Southwest - a region some say is key to Democrats taking back the White House. He served in Congress for 15 years, was later U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and secretary of energy under President Bill Clinton. Richardson has been governor of New Mexico since 2003.

Some people at the fund-raiser said they felt Richardson would make a solid candidate in the Democratic primaries.

"He certainly has all the goodies in his background," Ron Verdichio, a Bergen County resident and professor at William Paterson University, said of Richardson's background in public service.

Garrett is a conservative Republican who served in the state Assembly from 1990-02. He supported the Bush administration tax cuts and helped pass a law to protect the Highlands region.

Aronson is currently a public affairs officer at Pfizer. He served in the Clinton administration State Department.

Garrett beat Anne Wolfe of Mahwah in 2004 by a 58-42 margin.

"As a pro-business, pro-defense, moderate Democrat, I believe I can connect with the majority of voters in this district," Aronson said.

The 5th District covers Warren County and parts of Passaic, Sussex and Bergen counties.

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